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Agriculture

Levy of duty by His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government on rice exported from this Province.

* 322 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a special duty is levied by the Nizam's Government on rice exported from this province to that State;

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any steps to negotiate with the Nizam's Government for the removal of this duty; and

(*c*) what the articles mainly exported from the Hyderabad State to this province are and whether any special duties are levied on them?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. The Residency at Hyderabad has been addressed to move the Darbar to get the rate of import duty reduced to the limit of 5 per cent *ad valorem* permissible under the Commercial Treaty of 1802.

(*c*) Information regarding articles mainly exported from the State into this province is not available. It is understood that no British Indian duty is levied on any article imported from the State into the Presidency.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" May I know what is the rate that the State charges at present? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I have no information."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask why if no duty is levied by the Government on the goods imported from the State, such a duty should be allowed to be levied by the State in respect of rice exported from this Presidency? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I suppose it is in accordance with the terms of the Commercial treaty entered into between the State and the Government of India."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" May I know, in view of the fact that the circumstances are changing all the world over, why a treaty of 1802 still stands on the records of the Government without any attempt being made to revise it, especially as it works detrimentally to this Presidency? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The Government of India, I think, should be addressed in the matter."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Have the Government of Madras no corresponding right to levy duties upon goods imported into this Presidency from the Indian States? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I do not think any Local Government can do it."

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" At least have not the Government of India a corresponding right in this matter to that enjoyed by a State? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I am afraid I cannot give any reply offhand."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know if, in a matter which affects the weal of this Presidency, the Government of India alone should come to the help of this Presidency and if the Government of Madras would not take steps to have the treaty amended or address the Government of India, if necessary? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" As a matter of fact, from the answer given it will be seen that the Residency in Hyderabad is being addressed on this subject with a view to see whether the duties levied cannot be reduced."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" My question was with regard to the amendment of the treaty, not with regard to the percentage of duty levied. Cannot the Government of India be addressed, so that there might be equal rights to both the State and this Presidency? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Though, as I said, it does not form part of the Local Government's duty, yet the hon. Member's suggestion will be considered."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" Why should not the Government of Madras address the Government of India in this matter so that it may take action? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" That is what I said, Sir; the hon. Member's suggestion will be considered."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask whether the Minister would fight for the principle of reciprocity so far as duties are concerned and would move the Government of India in this matter? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I do not want any fighting in this matter; but I hope it may be possible to come to an understanding whereby we won't be the losers."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Have the States not the right to levy duty, and is it not also a fact that Provincial Governments do not levy duty on goods received from Indian States or other Provinces? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I have no information on that point."

Co-operative Societies

Land Mortgage Banks in Salem district.

* 323 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are proposals to start more land mortgage banks in Salem district;